

**THE OKLAHOMA SECURITIES COMMISSION RECOGNIZES WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY BY ASKING OKLAHOMANS TO WATCH FOR SIGNS OF ELDER FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION**

**Oklahoma City, June 14, 2016** — In recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, the Oklahoma Securities Commission spotlights the importance of safeguarding Oklahoma’s senior population by keeping a watchful eye for signs of elder financial exploitation and promptly reporting possible abuse to appropriate officials.

Elder financial abuse is rising with the rapid aging of the American population, due in part to the amount of wealth seniors have accumulated throughout their careers and their increasing isolation.

“Many in our older population are vulnerable due to social isolation and distance from family, caregivers, and other support networks,” Irving L. Faught, Administrator, said. “The days of aging in communities surrounded by generations of family members are fading into the past. We have to become “*sentinels*” for our seniors, listening and watching for signs of elder financial exploitation.”

In an effort to protect Oklahoma seniors the Oklahoma Securities Commission joined the Investor Protection Trust and its Elder Investment Fraud and Financial Exploitation (EIFFE) outreach program. This program has allowed the Commission to provide outreach to medical professional, investment professionals, and legal professionals in the area of recognition and reporting of elder financial exploitation.

The Oklahoma Securities Commission would like to ask for the citizens of Oklahoma to help in the fight against elder investment exploitation. Please watch for the following warning signs of suspicious behavior that may indicate potential elder financial exploitation:

- Has an elder moved away from existing relationships and toward new associations with other “friends” or strangers?
- Has a new person entered the elder’s life and shown an excessive interest in the elder’s finances or accounts?
- Are you unable to speak directly with the elder despite repeated attempts at contact?
- Does the elder display unexplained excitement over a financial windfall or prize check and reluctance to discuss details?

If these sound familiar, particularly if a securities professional is involved, Faught recommends contacting the Oklahoma Securities Commission at (405) 280-7700. Other types of elder abuse should be reported to Oklahoma’s Adult Protective Services at (405) 521-3660 or (800) 522-3511 or to local authorities.